a part of regular economic work, Indian Missions send reports with relevant inputs. These are always shared with the concerned Ministries. Our Heads of Missions have identified a number of economic areas for specific bilateral action as well as for promotion of regional and sub-regional cooperation.

List of fugitive militants to United States

1248. SHRI K. KALAVENKATA RAO: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India has given a list of 22 fugitive militants, criminals and economic offenders to the United States;

(b) if so, the details in this regard; and

(c) by when the U.S. Government is likely to send these offenders and criminals to India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, the New Extradition Treaty between India and the United States, which came into force in July 1999, provides a legal framework for extradition of fugitives from one country to face criminal proceedings in the other country. Under this arrangement, law enforcement agencies on the two sides periodically review pending extradition cases in both countries.

Anti-Indian activities in Bangladesh

1249. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item, captioned "Militants get Dhaka address" published in the Hindustan Times dated the 17th February, 2002;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether Government are aware that Bangladesh is fast emerging as a favourite destination for the terrorists and militants for cross-border terrorism against India;

(d) if so, whether any steps have been taken so far in the matter and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether the issue would be taken up with the Government of Bangladesh and if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) The Government of India is aware of the reports that agencies inimical to India's interests, including the ISI, are misusing the territory of Bangladesh for their anti-India activities. The Government of India has been regularly taking up these security related issues with Bangladesh at different levels through diplomatic channels and institutional mechanisms existing between the two countries. The Bangladesh Government has stated that it will not allow undesirable elements to use its territory for activities prejudicial to the security interests of India.

Waiving of Visa charges for Hindu and Sikh Afghan Nationals

1250. SHRI P.N. SIVA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have waived visa charges for all Sikh and Hindu Afghan nationals for entry into India; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI OMAR ABDULLAH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) All Afghan nationals including Sikhs and Hindus are issued gratis visas by Indian Missions and Posts abroad and their visas are extended gratis by Foreigners Regional Registration Officers in India.